

Serial Number 10/642,636

AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 3 by changing section line “3-3” to –4-4–, as indicated in the attached
REPLACEMENT SHEET.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Amendments to Drawings

Fig. 3 has been amended by changing the section line designator from “3-3” to –4-4–, in accordance with proper drawing conventions (the section line designator should refer to the drawing that includes the section). No other changes have been made to the drawings.

The drawing description on page 6 of the specification has been amended to reflect the revised section line designator.

A replacement sheet including the change to Fig. 3 is attached.

2. Rejection of Claims 3-5, 12-15, and 17-19 Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

This rejection has been addressed by changing “downward” to –downstream–, as suggested by the Examiner, with corresponding changes to the specification.

3. Rejections Under 35 USC §§102(b) and 103(a)

These rejections have been rendered moot by the amendment of claims 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5, and the amendment of claim 10 to include the subject matter of claim 12. Claims 5 and 12 were indicated as allowable in item 7 on page 4 of the Official Action.

In addition, new claim 21 combines claims 1, 7, and 8. Claim 8 was indicated as allowable in item 7 on page 4 of the Official Action..

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Serial Number 10/642,636

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



By: **BENJAMIN E. URCIA**
Registration No. 33,805

Date: December 28, 2004

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

NWB:S:\Producer\beu\Pending A...H\H\IORNO 642636\01.wpd